



Paul E. Helliker
Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation



Gray Davis
Governor
Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

STATUS REPORT FOR FUMIGANT PESTICIDES

May, 2001

I. FUMIGANT DATA REQUIREMENTS

The development of the regulatory programs for 1,3-dichloropropene, methyl bromide, metam sodium, and other fumigant pesticides has documented the necessity of obtaining specific data characterizing the atmospheric partitioning, dispersion, and fate in order to effectively regulate fumigants. Staff are currently developing a data call-in for existing and anticipated new fumigants using existing authority for the registration and the reevaluation process. This should provide for the quickest means of registering and regulating new fumigant replacements for methyl bromide while protecting workers, the public, and the environment.

II. 2001 SCHEDULED AIR MONITORING

DPR has scheduled air monitoring for methyl bromide, 1,3-dichloropropene, MITC (metam sodium) and chloropicrin for the 2001 pesticide use season. The air monitoring is scheduled for July and August 2001 in Kern County and for September and October 2001 for Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. This monitoring should provide documentation of the impact of additional regulatory measures to mitigate the 2000 air monitoring levels.

III. METHYL BROMIDE

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- Analysis of recent air monitoring data. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has received air monitoring data for methyl bromide and 1,3-dichloropropene from the Air Resources Board. The monitoring data characterize air concentrations that occurred in an area of Kern County from July 10, 2000 through September 1, 2000, and an area of Monterey County from September 11, 2000 through November 3, 2000. Staff have developed an analysis of the air monitoring data and a series of mitigation options to be considered for mitigation (Attachment 1). This document was distributed for comment and will be the basis for establishing further regulatory activities for the 2001 high use season. This season starts in July and continues into November.

FLEX YOUR POWER! The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web site at <www.cdpr.ca.gov>.



- The methyl bromide exposure assessment revisions incorporating the National Academy of Science peer review comments is anticipated to be completed in June 2001. The risk characterization document for methyl bromide will be amended to include the revised exposure assessment document.

2. Risk Management Status

- The Environmental Defense Center et al lawsuit and the Ventura County Agricultural Association et al lawsuit have been consolidated and will be heard in San Francisco. Previously, the Ventura County Agricultural Association et al had been filed in Sacramento, California.

IV. 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- Amending 1,3-dichloropropene buffer zones. Staff are completing work to modify the acute buffer zones for 1,3-dichloropropene products. The changes will be in the form of recommended permit conditions for use, and are anticipated to be implemented in June 2001.

2. Risk Management Status

- Telone EC has completed its review and is expected to be registered in early June. This formulation is for drip application as opposed to the currently registered shank applied product.
- Inline, a 1,3-dichloropropene product with 35% chloropicrin formulated for drip applications, was noticed for comment on May 14, 2001. A 30-day comment period on its proposed registration precedes final registration action in California.

V. CHLOROPICRIN

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- A notice to registrants of chloropicrin products was issued on March 16, 2001, notifying them that the risk assessment process has started. This formally initiates

work on the risk characterization document and is followed by a series of notices informing registrants of the progress of chloropicrin in the risk assessment process.

2. Risk Management Status

- Proposed chloropicrin permit conditions. DPR has reviewed the Southern Deputy Commissioners' proposal and included comments in an agricultural commissioner's letter that was sent in April. DPR will participate further as a reviewer as the proposal is further developed.

VI. MITC GENERATING COMPOUNDS

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- DPR's toxic air contaminant risk assessment document for MITC has completed the review process. Finalization of the assessment and risk management actions have been delayed pending action on the lawsuit filed by the Metam Sodium Task Force.

2. Risk Management Status

- A regulation package placing metam potassium and other MITC generating chemicals on the restricted materials list should be sent to the Office of Administrative Law for approval in June 2001. These materials are currently listed by emergency regulation.
- The Metam Sodium Task Force has filed a lawsuit to restrain DPR from listing metam sodium, MITC, or other metam sodium breakdown products as toxic air contaminants.

VII. POTENTIAL NEW FUMIGANTS

- DPR is currently (May 2001) waiting to receive applications for California for products containing methyl iodide and propargyl bromide. Staff have discussed registration requirements and study methodologies with consultants and have provided published studies and written protocols for guidance.

VIII METHYL BROMIDE ALTERNATIVES

- The request for proposals for the Pest Management Alliance Program and the Pest Management Research Program will be distributed July 2001. These programs consider proposals for methyl bromide alternatives. For further information, contact Adolf Braun at (916) 324-4247, or by email at <abraun@cdpr.ca.gov>.